Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 /083 W ------ 025112

R 241534Z DEC 74 FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2347 INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EMIN, DR

SUBJECT: ALCOA ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH GODR

- 1. LOCAL PRESS CARRIED HEADLINE STORIES OVER PAST FEW DAYS THAT ALCOA (PITTSBURGH) HAS ANNOUNCED A SETTLEMENT WITH GODR AND SURINAM ON BAUXITE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. STORIES CARRIED FEW AND CONFUSED DETAILS REGARDING SETTLEMENT. LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE ISSUED NO STATEMENT WHILE SECFIN, CARLOS SELIMAN, WHO ALSO CHAIRS GODR NEGOTIATING COMMISSION, INITIALLY DENIED OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGE OF A SETTLEMENT. SELIMAN REPORTED IN SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES TO HAVE STATED THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS TAKEN CHARGE OF NEGOTIATIONS.
- 2. SINCE FEW DETAILS WERE AVAILABLE, PRESS STORIES ENGAGED IN SOME SPECULATION CITING ALCOA SETTLEMENT IN SURINAM WHERE THEY SAY PRICE PER TON OF BAUXITE WAS RAISED FROM \$2.50 TO \$10.00.

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3. COMMENT: GODR SILENCE IN FACE ALCOA ANNOUNCEMENT IS STRANGE;

EVEN MORE SO IS MINFIN'S EARLY PROFESSION IGNORANCE OF SETTLEMENT. ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT THUS FAR WAS YESTERDAY'S EL SOL EXPRESSING ASTONISMENT THAT HEAD DOMINICAN NEGOTIATING COMMISSION UNAWARE OF STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. LOCAL ALCOA REPRESENTATIVE, PATRICK HUGHSON, TOLD EMBASSY THAT ALCOA PITTSBURGH HELD PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE SURINAM SETTLEMENT. APPARENTLY REPORTERS ASKED ABOUT DOM. REP. NEGOTIATIONS AND RECEIVED ANSWER THAT ALCOA WOULD BE PAYING MORE FOR BAUXITE HERE, TOO. PRESS REPORTED THIS AS A SETTLEMENT IN DOM. REP. HUGHSON SAYS REPORTS HERE WERE VERY EMBARRASSING BUT NOT OF SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE CONSEQUENCE. ALCOA (PITTSBURGH) HAS SENT CABLE APOLOGIES TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER. HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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